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# THE BELL RINGER

Vol. 39, No. 3

MONTGOMERY BELL ACADEMY, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

March, 1974

*Mr. Gibson, Mrs. Simmons, Mr. Wood***Faculty Members Added**

Mr. John Gibson, a 1970 graduate of MBA, has returned to teach economics on the Hill. Mr. Gibson was both salutatorian and the outstanding athlete his senior year at MBA.

At Vanderbilt, Mr. Gibson received his degree after three years because of AP courses in high school and summer work in college. This fall, he will enter the Vanderbilt Medical School. Though he teaches only economics, Mr. Gibson can also teach history or Latin.

In a recent interview with the BELL RINGER, Mr. Gibson said the student body of today is more liberal and has more privileges and responsibilities than a student of the 1960s. However, the student at MBA is still very concerned about his work.

Crossing the bridge from student to faculty in a very short time, Mr. Gibson feels that often the students do not appreciate the degree of time and effort teachers utilize to prepare lessons and teach the students. Each teacher is concerned with his students' progression, and this is especially made possible by the small size of classes at MBA.

Mrs. Mildred Simmons is the new librarian at MBA, succeeding Mrs. David Taylor. A native of Summer County, Mrs. Simmons received her B.A. from Cumberland University and her M.A. in Library Science from Peabody.

Before coming to MBA, Mrs. Simmons was associated with the library of Peabody Demonstration School for eight years where she worked with Mrs. Taylor several years ago. Mrs. Simmons is the mother of three children, two sons and a daughter.

In an interview with the BELL RINGER, Mrs. Simmons said that she finds the MBA student very conscientious about her work. The fact that the library and its re-

sources are so well used evidences the student's seriousness about his assignments. Also, Mrs. Simmons said that she had no trouble stepping into the job of librarian with its many responsibilities because of the excellent organization which Mrs. Taylor had instituted.

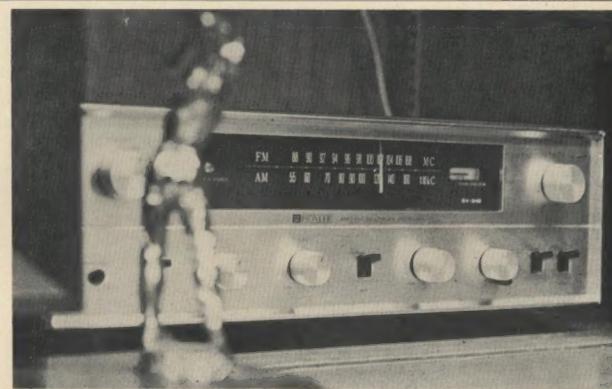
Mrs. Simmons' primary objectives in the library are to expand the collections of modern poetry and popular fiction. She believes that this will help create interest in reading for pleasure as well as supplementing the regular reading included in the curriculum.

Mr. Toby Wood teaches American History and geography and coaches wrestling at MBA. He transferred here from Father Ryan about three months into the current school year because of the "better working opportunity" he felt that this school would afford him.

Coach Wood received his BS from MTSU and did graduate work at Western Kentucky University after graduating from Father Ryan. He has taught not only at Ryan but also at Trinity High School.

His impressions of MBA and its students have been generally favorable: "I think that the student is more aware of his own purpose in attending school than the students at the other schools at which I have taught." One of this school's weaknesses, according to Wood, is the dilution of the effect of certain basic and vital aspects of the curriculum due to the diverseness and number of possible activities available to the student.

Wood plans to build up the wrestling program by working with prospective wrestlers this spring and getting to know more individuals around the school, because "there are a lot of people cut there that could help us."



The Trophy Room AM/FM radio.

**Two SC Proposals Approved**

MBA has recently acquired an AM/FM stereo radio for the trophy room of the Ball Building. The purchase was a result of a Student Council proposal approved by the faculty.



The Gent strikes on Page 2.

Since the radio is to be used almost exclusively for student relaxation, a plan was set up by the Student Council for the students to pay the cost of the \$165 receiver and speakers. With the approval of the student body in a referendum, the SC collected fifty cents from each student to defray the cost.

The audio is set at a constant volume so as not to disturb classes in the building. Skip Woolwine, technical director for the project, accomplished this; the faculty reversed its earlier decision negating the idea on account of the noise factor.

The radio proposal was one of

**Off the Hill****What Is NORML?**

By Peter Oldham and Willie Mann

The legalization of marijuana is a topic which has been troubling the conscience of the nation for more than a decade. NORML, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, was begun as an effort to legitimate marijuana to the status of a socially acceptable drug, such as alcohol.

Since marijuana was made illegal in 1937, the law has been stringently maintained by some, flaunted by others, and quietly ignored by the rest. Previous to 1937, *cannabinol*, the active agent of the drug, was used as a medicine in the treatment of nervous exhaustion and pain. Also, mixed with salicylic acid, it was once used as a treatment for corns. Having been removed from the U.S. pharmacopoeia, it is no longer used medicinally in the United States, but is still used for medical purposes in some parts of Asia.

The Tennessee director of NORML, Mr. John Shenk, comments that the primary objective of his organization is not totally to legalize marijuana, as many people think, but rather "to stop throwing innocent people into jail until marijuana is conclusively proved to be 'physically or mentally detrimental.'

**'Three Basic Directions'**  
NORML works for its goals in three basic directions. First, legislators are re-educated about

the facts found about pot. Second the people are educated about these facts. Third, influential people are brought in to support NORML's stands. Doctors, lawyers, and others credible witnesses who support the group's views speak on behalf of NORML; among these speakers are Dr. Benjamin Spock, Ramsey Clark, and William F. Buckley, Jr.

The local branch of the organization works basically the same way as the main office in Washington. However, the Washington office attacks the Federal laws; the local office attacks the state laws. Yet, Shenk has to fund his own organization; whatever money he raises in Tennessee stays in Tennessee. The only help he gets from Washington is advice on how to go about trying to change the laws.

Shenk funds the local branch of NORML mainly from memberships and donations. He also has the movie "Reefer Madness" which he shows around the state to raise money.

**'No Visible Whatsoever'**  
Believe it or not, Shenk says that he has had no trouble "whatsoever" in working out his goals. He has had "nothing but co-operation from everybody that (he has) worked with." Although the state organization is only eight months old, Shenk has al-

(Continued on Page 2)

**15 Seniors Named Merit Finalists**

Front Row: Koenig, Batson, Cummings, Morgan, Sehner.

Second row: Hargett, Claybrook, Armour, Palmer, Hutton, Voigt, Stengel.

Fifteen seniors were named National Merit Finalists for 1974 by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

The seniors were awarded an honor shared by less than one half of one percent of the nation's

graduating secondary school seniors. They are:

Chris Armour, Miller Batson, Andy Claybrook, Tim Cummings, John Elam, Eddie Gillum, Charlie Hargett, Jody Hutton, Joel Koenig, Wal-

ter Morgan, Rupert Palmer, Jennifer Sehner, Brian Sims, Marc Stengel, and John Voigt.

Out of a group of about 14,000 finalists, approximately \$1,000 will receive a Merit Scholarship. Winners will be announced between mid-March and mid-May.

# THE BELL RINGER

Editors-in-chief	Chris Armour Peter Oldham
News Editors	Dan Earthman Phil Overmyer
Sports Editors	Randy Bibb Jim Harbison
Features Editor	Joel Koenig
Photography Editor	John Rebrovick
Arts Editor	Rupert Palmer
Business Editor	Will Long
Circulation Editor	John Peterson
Contributors	
Madison Bell, Carl Flygt, George Hicks, Willie Mann, Bob Parrish, Mike Shea, Bob Tosh, John Voigt, Mitch Walker	

## Reflections on Apathy

By Peter Oldham

Recall one more time, if you will, Bob Tosh's "Kulture Korner" in the first issue of this year's BELL RINGER. In that article, Tosh stated that apathy is rampant on MBA's campus. It is no apparent to anyone with any perceptible ability that all that MBA is not the only area teeming with the disease.

In my activities this year I have noticed a great lack of enthusiasm for everything. My church youth group has accomplished nothing more than socializing this year. As president of that group, I at first tended to blame myself for the lack of participation. However, I finally looked around and noticed that there is no desire to buckle down and achieve a goal.

I also have noticed this lack of desire with this newspaper. The staffs have been more reluctant than usual to write and research articles. The students have been less vocal than in the past with their criticisms of the paper.

To quote Tosh, "Apathy has been a natural result of many an idealistic . . . conflict in the past in which a courageously fought battle ends in the opposite result and, hence, in frustration." The "idealistic conflict" is actually plural in the case of MBA.

On the national scene, last year saw the end of the Vietnam War. After several years of riots, demonstrations, and other violent anti-war displays, the young people in the nation were left without a common cause for which to fight.

Closer to home, the '72-'73 school year was the year of excitement on the Hill. The infamous resolutions exploded the campus into a mini-war of its own. Now that the war is over, the students can finally settle that needs changing—or at least they are not vocal in their demands.

I do not mean to sound negative, as I do not condone violence as the only method to show interest. However, I have not seen any peaceful enthusiasm in many activities this year. This lack of enthusiasm is merely a stage between the kind of activities that generate genuine enthusiasm within everyone.

It is too bad that this stage must be lived through. I certainly hope that we can move on soon to a project which will captivate the energy of all.

## We Are Responsible

By Peter Oldham

Following each issue of the BELL RINGER many people express their compliments and complaints.

Most of the compliments are received by the editors-in-chief; however, students and faculty seem to think that a "higher responsibility" should receive the complaints. This "higher responsibility" notably our faculty advisor, in turn relates these complaints to Chris Armour and myself.

This practice is unfair to both the editors and the person complaining. While our faculty advisor does decide whether an article is suitable for publication, the newspaper is a student publication for which the editors take responsibility. By receiving complaints second-hand, we have no chance to defend ourselves.

If the complaints were registered with the editor, we could get a better idea about what the editor likes and dislikes about the BELL RINGER. But by receiving no complaints directly, we tend to get an almost idealistic picture of the paper, an idealism which is ruined only by some rumors of the discontent of certain people.

In the interests of a "more viable publication," I ask that all criticisms be registered with an editor, preferably an editor-in-chief.

## NORML (continued)

ready been able to do things that other states have not; like, for instance, hold a successful concert. There have been three others in different states and all were total failures. The concert staged in Nashville a few months ago filled the War Memorial Auditorium.

The only big problem facing NORML is pot's illegality. Sherk appeared on a TV show with District Attorney General Shriner, and the only argument that Shriner could come up with was that pot is illegal and he is bound by law to enforce its criminality. In fact, Shriner wound up de-

## The Wit and Wisdom of Plato

By Rupert Palmer

### A GREAT DIALOGUE OF PLATO "DEATH AND IMMORTALITY" from THE PHIDO

The following is one of Plato's greatest dialogues. In it Socrates is approached by two young men, Brouns and Kysas, and questioned about his apparent resolution to die. He answers in the imitable Socratic fashion which caused posterity to name a teaching style after him.

KYSAS: SOCRATES, Why is it that you hasten so to meet your death?

SOCRATES: Why would you think, KYSAS, that for me is particularly worth living? It is like, if you will permit my use of this comparison, the man who, after weeding his cabbage patch, discovered that he was in his radish patch and pulled up all his radishes.

BROUNIS: What, SOCRATES, is the point of that story?

SOCRATES: That is for me to know and you to figure out, sonny boy.

KYS. Well, what did you mean by telling it?

SOCR. Nothing. It sounded good, so I thought I'd throw it in.

BRO. What were we talking about? Oh yes, your imminent death. Why do you so seek death?

SOCR. Why would any man seek death?

BRO. To achieve immortality?

SOCR. What is immortality?

BRO. Beg pardon?

SOCR. Define it; it is not necessary to list any examples.

BRO. I do not understand.

SOCR. Good. That was my whole point.

KYS. How does the man in the cabbage patch gain immortality?

SOCR. It would seem that he does not.

KYS. It would seem so.

SOCR. Therefore it would seem that not all men marching to their deaths do so to achieve immortality.

KYS. Yet, as I recall, the cabbage farmer was not marching to his death.

SOCR. Then it would seem that we have reached a paradox.

KYS. I do not understand.

SOCR. Good.

SOCR. Would it not seem to you

that a man will obtain a certain amount of immortality even in the most notorious of deaths?

BRO. What, SOCRATES, is immortality?

SOCR. Would you say immortality is life after death?

BRO. Nowadays I'm not sure what I'd say.

SOCR. But have we not said that an immortal does not die, and therefore do we not have a paradox?

BRO. We haven't, and therefore we don't. But why, SOCRATES, do you seek this death, not knowing whether immortality will really be yours?

SOCR. Do I not know? As I have often said, blessed is he who knows not, and cursed is he who

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## Art Displayed in Library

By Madison Bell

Paul and Danny Phifer recently appeared at MBA with a show of their art works.

The Phifers are young artists who recently graduated from art school; hence, the greater part of their show is dominated by traditional themes and techniques. Their styles overlap and fuse, and in speaking of their work, they use the editorial "we." The traditional nature of their painting is perhaps reflected in their rather dogged work habits. Both are accustomed to spending at least eight hours a day on some pieces. The Phifers are adept in their various techniques, and their works are attractive though not shockingly innovative. The two artists must live by selling their work, and this necessity

seems to cramp their originality somewhat.

Another artist, A. L. Orr, had several canvases on view at MBA, all larger and less intimate than the works of the Phifer brothers. Orr is a modern artist who interprets traditional themes in terms of the modern world. Exemplifying this idea is a painting from a series which Orr refers to as monumental forms; his painting continues in modern terms the monumental essence of the pyramid.

Another series of paintings attempts to combine the elements of the man-made world and the natural world.

In contrast to these concepts of the monumental and the eternal, Orr believes that the

artist should not consider his works permanent; that he should destroy a major work about once a week just for the sheer therapy of it. Orr has removed himself from circulation for about six months; however, he now plans to get back to work, probably on a series of still-lives.

John Momine conducted a silk-screen workshop at MBA recently, during which he explained techniques involving both hand-cut films and photo films. Some of the new techniques that he discussed have since been used by the art department to achieve a different, photographic style of print.

Momine has had a show of his own prints hung at MBA as well. Some of these employ the muted effect of torn paper strands in abstract designs, while others are a blend of overlaid photographic stencils. Momine has given one of these prints, entitled "They Flew by the Seat of Their Pants", to the school.

they must be approved by the executive secretary of the Society. A strong character can be instrumental in developing a higher level of journalistic achievement. Through the efforts of Quill and Scroll, the chapter can attract students of high ability to publications work by offering recognition of honors, as well as securing greater recognition of journalism and providing incentive for the development and improvement of school publications.

Students are selected for membership in the honorary society on the fulfillment of the following requirements: (1) they must be juniors or seniors; (2) they must be in the upper one-third of their class in general scholastic standing; (3) they must be recommended by the supervisor governing publications; and (4)

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Mr. Walker, the BELL RINGER

adviser, will make the first presentation of membership to MBA

journalists in an assembly program in the Spring.

## Quill and Scroll Formed

MBA has recently secured a charter in Quill and Scroll, an international honorary society of high school journalists.

The society was founded in 1926 for the purpose of encouraging and rewarding individual student achievements in journalism and school publications.

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## Alumni News

Jesse Wills (Wallace alumni and member of MBA Board of Trustees) has written a book of poetry which was published in November 1973 entitled *Nashville and Other Poems*.

Jeff Peebles, '69, MBA football and baseball star, has signed with the St. Louis Cardinals baseball team, after pitching Vanderbilt to the 1973 SEC Championship.

Billy Frist, '70, was one of only three Princeton seniors to be chosen as a Wilson Scholar. Billy is choosing as his course of independent study and as his major the field of health care.

Fred Fisher, '73, broke all of former MBA and Vanderbilt great Bill Wade's offensive football records, establishing himself in Vanderbilt history.

The story of this rock-recit concerns a Mod living in London during the mid-sixties, who has a mutated form of schizophrenia involving a personality split four ways. After returning home from a riot in Brighton, he is thrown out of the house. He loafes for a few days, making the rounds with a London gang called the Rockers, until he attends a Who concert. For unexplained reasons, he gets a job as a janitor. Tired of this form of living, he takes a

## Armchair Moviegoer's Guide

### Recent Films Reviewed

**Trinity Is Still My Name**—3—A slight improvement over its predecessor thanks to some trickery by the camera involving card tricks. And again we see some fancy, but improbable, gun-slinging. In the end, once again, like the first of its kind, we find evidence that nice guys finish last.

**Westworld**—4—A bizarre fairy tale which may come true in the future. Westworld is one of three vacation resorts where a tourist can go to live exactly as he would at a particular time in history. A problem exists when the robots, adding to the authenticity of each resort, go haywire and seek vengeance against the tourists.

**American Graffiti**—4½—A nostalgic look at the recent (1962) American past. There is almost a flawless unification of its many individual stories, and the young actors are just as remarkable. A good, amusing, and quite detailed flick.

**They Call Me Trinity**—2½—The first of the Italian-American westerns by the Trinity boys proved to be often boring and overly cute. Still, Terence Hill grandly portrays a smelly, pesky, rootless rogue with class.

**Electra Glide in Blue**—4—The story of a motorcycle cop somewhere in the great western desert country. Robert Blake, (who is to the inch exactly as tall as Alan Ladd) is excellent in his portrayal of Wintergreen, the typical common man as tragic hero seeking something better in life. In the end, the freaks get revenge for *Easy Rider*.

**The Way We Were**—3—Robert Redford (again) and Barbara Streisand are a couple (?) who are totally opposite, meet, fall in love, go to Hollywood, get mixed up in the McCarthy Commie hearings, and break up. Great for Streisand and Redford fans, but otherwise the movie drags.

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## Who's 'Quadrophenia' Reviewed

By Bob Tosh

The Who's latest creation, *Quadrophenia* (MCA), has been highly touted by many of its reviewers; *Newsweek*, for example, declared it a rock breakthrough, ranking it with *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*, *Tommy*, and *Jesus Christ Superstar* as another milestone in rock music. That kind of praise isn't bad for a new album to receive—*Quadrophenia* certainly has enough style and substance to be

train to Brighton, where he eventually gets a job as a bellboy. Attacked by one of his frequent fits of depression, and aided by gin and "leapers", he boats to a rock offshore, where he drowns in a rainstorm.

The Mod's personality is presented as a "collective" reflection of the personalities of the four members of The Who. Roger Daltrey's theme, "Helpless Dancer," concerns the tough, fighting, frustrated attitude in one of the Mod's split identities "Bell Boy". Keith Moon's theme, reflects the lunacy and pettiness of the Mod's life, creating another personality for him. John Entwistle's theme, "Is It Me?", in-

cluded in "Dr. Jimmy", reflects a romantic identity, besides revealing a need for meaning and value in his life. Finally, "Love Reign O'er Me," Peter Townshend's theme, shows the Mod's fourth identity as that of one starved for love and begging for spiritual rain.

From a solely musical point of view, *Quadrophenia* is polished and professional; outstanding cuts include "Cut My Hair", "15", and "Sea and Sand". "Love Reign O'er Me" has even begun to get air play on some FM stations. It is hoped that more people will discover *Quadrophenia* as an excellent example of The Who's personalities, message, and music.

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## Wit and Wisdom

(Continued from Page 2)

knows and knows not that he knows not, or is it blessed is he that knows when he knows not that he knows that he knows not that he knows not, and cursed is he who knows... BRO. I do not know, and in truth, SOCRATES, I care not that I know not. Would you answer the question, please?

SOC. Uh, what's the question?

BRO. I am more and more confused.

SOC. Good.

KYS. Give us an answer, SOC-RATES.

SOC. There are no absolute answers.

BRO. Then give us a relative one. We ain't particular.

SOC. Very well. This is why I seek death. You see Plato, yonder? If I die here like a fool, and justify myself well, he will write down my story for posterity in a series of witty dialogues.

Thus I will receive immortality and go down in history as the wisest man in Greece.

KYS & BRO. I do not understand.

SOC. Good.

KYS. Give us an answer, SOC-RATES.

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## 'God-like' Daniel and the TSSAA: A History Lesson

By Randy Bibb

"It is just a small school, but there are those of us who love it."

- (1.) This statement was uttered by:
  - (A.) Richard M. Nixon
  - (B.) Francis E. Carter, Jr.
  - (C.) Daniel Webster
  - (D.) None of the above
  - (E.) All of the above
- (2.) The school described was:
  - (A.) Dartmouth College
  - (B.) Whittier College
  - (C.) Montgomery Bell Academy
  - (D.) Slippery Rock State Teacher's College
  - (E.) All of the above
- (3.) The year in which the statement was made was:
  - (A.) 1776
  - (B.) 1884
  - (C.) 1819
  - (D.) 1974
  - (E.) 1954

You have five minutes to complete the test. The score will be computed on a basis of the number right minus a fraction of the number wrong.

The time is up. Stop your work, put up your pencils, and close your examination books.

The correct answers are: (1.) C; (2.) A; (3.) C. Those of you who answered all three correctly pat yourselves on the back. Nice try for those of you who got two out of three. Those that got only one or struck out, start the test again. You should do better.

This test, besides testing your knowledge of trivial statements, is going to show how history can repeat itself. No, I'm not talking about all of that Kennedy-Lincoln jazz; history is just about to repeat itself right before our eyes in the coming months.

Webster made his famous plea at the end of his argument before the Supreme Court in 1819. Dartmouth College had been issued a charter by King George III of England in 1769 as a private school. The charter that was granted was to last "forever." Following the Revolutionary War, as the colonies became independent states, several states took over the charters granted by the King, declaring that those charters were invalid.

In 1816, the state of New Hampshire attempted to make Dartmouth College the state school by cancelling its charter. The former trustees of the school held that the royal charter was still valid. They hired Webster, himself a graduate of Dartmouth, and brought suit against William H. Woodward, the college secretary, to recover the school seal and records. In 1819, Webster presented the trustees' case before the Supreme Court.

The court ruled in favor of the trustees; it held that the state had "impaired the obligation" of the charter in violation of Article I, Section 10 of the Constitution.

Today, the verdict in the Dartmouth College Case remains a landmark decision in upholding the sanctity of contracts.

In 1974, the Supreme Court ruling of 1819 might again come into play. It seems that pending before the Legislative Council of the Tennessee Secondary Schools Athletic Association is a rule change that might violate the charter of Montgomery Bell Academy. Legislative Proposal 3c reads as follows:

That Article II, Section 27 of the TSSAA Bylaws be amended to read as follows: "If tuition is charged, it must be paid by parent or bona fide guardian. Students receiving scholarships shall be ineligible. Children of faculty members in private schools may be given scholarships, but such students, if transfers, shall be ineligible for twelve months in any sport in which they have an athletic record for the previous or current year."

### Soccer Team Takes Second

By virtue of its second place finish in the state tournament, the MBA soccer team has already established a name for itself among the state's top teams. In what coach Tommy Webb called an "emotionally draining" last-second loss to McCallie, the team lost the state crown 1-0.

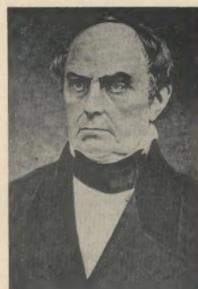
The Big Red concluded the 1973-1974 season 11-2.

Head coaches Mr. Tommy Webb and Mr. John Lanier place the team's success on the starting returnees from last year's squad. Coach Lanier, in addition to his coaching role at MBA, is the starting goalie for the Vanderbilt soccer team.

Coach Webb, in an exclusive interview following the season, said that losing the state championship was like "giving an easy test. There was no satisfaction."

The season's opener against Columbia Military Academy started out to be a close game; but a strong offensive showing, led by linemen Morgan Crawford, Jerry Goertz, Dan Hartman, and Michael Shea and assisted by halfbacks Steve Ellis and Johnny Schaffner, in the second half produced a 5-1 victory.

MBA continued its winning ways with a sparkling defense led by fullbacks Joe Davis, Dave



Daniel Webster



Francis E. Carter

### Varsity Basketball

## Big Red, 10-15, Improves

In the first twenty games of the 1973-74 season, the MBA varsity basketball team under new head coach Mr. Bill Duncan, has doubled last year's victory total by compiling a record of eight wins against twelve losses.

After a dismal 1-5 start, the Big Red ran its record to 5-8 with the only loss being a one-point decision to highly-ranked McCallie of Chattanooga. This spurt included a 63-60 win over previously unbeaten Battleground Academy and a 90-43 thrashing of Peabody.

At the semester break, the record stood at 6-9 following losses to Pearl, the N.I.L. leader, and Father Ryan, always a title-contender.

During the next five games, it was all feast or famine for the Big Red. After dropping a 42-39 decision to highly-regarded Hillsboro, MBA suffered an embarrassingly one-sided defeat to Cohn. Also during this stretch, the MBA five defeated both Bellevue and Columbia Military Academy, each for the second time this season.

The team leader was junior guard Joe Thoni, the playmaker and usually the high-scorer. He ranks among the outstanding players in the N.I.L. Brad Turney, his backcourt partner, also a junior, turned in several high-point games. Steadily-improving Mike Ralston and Jim Harbison provided rebounding strength, although often outsized. The starting five is completed by junior Jimmy Deal who has given several excellent performances.

Bench strength was supplied primarily by Robert Harris, Hill Granberry, and Jack Nulmer, all of whom have started games during the course of the season. Other team members include David Jacobs, Russ Heldman, Bobby Thym, and Brad Hooker.



Robert Harris scores against Pearl.

### MOON DRUG COMPANY

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